

INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2008

COMFORT INN

BISMARCK, ND

PRESENT: Linda Jagielo, Allison Dybing-Driessen, Scot Hoeper, Tammy Gallup-Millner, Stefanie Two Crow, Dick Dever, Bob Rutten, Holly Major, Judy Freund, Brenda Patzner, Steve Olson, Jill Staudinger, Arlene de la Paz, Roxane Romanick, Deb Balsdon, Missi Baranko

Introductions were made.

TOPIC: REVIEW OF 6/08 MINUTES

ACTION:

- Changes to the minutes include: add Arlene de la Paz; page 4 – add “z” to Went;
- A motion was made by Scot Hoeper and seconded by Stephen Olson to approve the minutes as amended.

TOPIC: NDICC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

ACTION:

- Roxane emailed Nicole Weiler of the Governor's Office regarding an opening in Mental Health. Also gave the name of Carol Brakel for a position and they asked for additional names and those have been submitted. Physician – the Committee requested the lead agency to contact 2 physicians. One responded yes and waiting to hear from the other.

TOPIC: REPORT ON THE FEDERAL ISSUANCE OF PART C STATE

DETERMINATION

ACTION:

- We have 2 areas of concern:
 - Indicator #7 – 45-day timeline, number of days from referral to initial development of the IFSP for a child found eligible.
 - Hearing screenings are not getting completed in the designated timeline.
 - Training was held for Infant Development staff on conducting hearing screenings. OAEs and tympanograms have been purchased and distributed to the regions.
 - Contracts are being arranged with audiologists to interpret the results of the screenings.
 - Dr. Brady Ness conducted the training for ID staff.

- There was some discussion about getting the readings to the audiologists quickly and securely. Scanners will be purchased for the Infant Development programs to send to the audiologists.
- Indicator #9 – timely correction of non-compliance.
 - After non-compliance is identified, it will be classified as either systematic or individual.
 - If it is individual, then the program will need to correct and show how it has been corrected within 60 days. Programs have up to a year to correct systemic non-compliance.
 - We have gone through this in 1 complete cycle.
 - Some of the programs had these corrected before they received the findings from us.
 - This year we are making determination of the local programs.
 - Deb discussed modifying the compliance system in order to give points to the programs doing a good job at the correction.
 - Deb also reported that the case review tool, which is the instrument the programs use to review cases, is requiring some modifications.
 - We must report on the state determination but not on the local determinations.

TOPIC: NDICC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Executive Committee
 - Have not met since the last quarter.
- Early Intervention Services Subcommittee
 - Met last May and last night.
 - Discussed co-chairs: Suzy Heise is a co-chair and we need another co-chair but that person must be a member of the ICC.
 - Jill Staudinger will chair and Angela Glaser will be the parent co-chair.
 - Right Track and OAE Issue – The subcommittee spent time meeting on this issue last night. It was noted by an ICC member that this is an issue that was also brought up by the regional RICC – whether or not children screened under Right Track could also have access to hearing screenings.
 - Equipment that was purchased went to the Infant Development programs and staff was trained.
 - It was requested that additional equipment be purchased and given to Right Track to conduct screenings.
 - Children in early intervention and right track are at higher risk for hearing issues and concerns.
 - Children who fail the newborn hearing screening following birth are referred to Right Track for follow up.
 - A question was asked whether or not the School for the Deaf is available in situations where it's more difficult to get the screenings completed.
 - The concern with also providing these screenings through Right Track is that more business may be taken away from audiologists.
 - A comment was made that we are paying the audiologists to read the screenings and if there are issues it will be a childfind activity for the audiologists.

- It was noted that distance and travel is an issue for some families.
- Children are not getting follow up on the reservations.
- It was noted that if we have the equipment to show families that there is an issue, which may make it easier for them to go in.
- There are Part C funds that need to be obligated between now and the end of Sept and Deb asked for advice from the Council members on whether or not to purchase for Right Track. If the funds are not used, they are returned to OSEP.
- The 4 audiologists that are on board now, are each covering 2 regions.
- Special training needs to be provided so that individuals are comfortable in using the equipment.
- Bob Rutten stated that the Legislature is looking at what to do with the School for the Deaf – discussion to promote a different delivery of service model.

ACTION: A motion was made by Holly Major and seconded by Allison Dybing-Driessen that the state office investigate purchasing 13 more OAEs and Temps with the Part C prior to September 30, going through the proper channels, and to continue open communication with the audiologists that this will increase their business. Motion carried.

- Further discussion: Deb noted that from the billings from the contracts we will be able to obtain how many referrals were completed and how many did and didn't pass the screening. Deb will present some preliminary information at the December meeting.

TOPIC: MINOT INFANT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

ACTION:

- They are celebrating their 30th birthday day on Thurs, Sept 18, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at the Holiday Inn.

TOPIC: WAIVER RENEWAL PROCESS

ACTION:

- The Developmental Disabilities Division's 3 Waivers are all up for renewal.
- The revised waiver language needs to go out for a 60-day comment period.
- The application needs to be submitted to the Feds by the 1st of the year.
- The Waivers expire on March 31, 2009.
- The 3 Waivers are: 2 Self-Directed Support Waivers and 1 traditional Waiver.
- Looking at making some changes in some of the services and being more cost effective.
- There is a ripple effect for targeted case management from the Budget Deficit Reduction Act.
- At the DD 2008 Crossroads Conference on Tues, Sept 16, there will be a Brown Bag Lunch to get feedback on the roles of case management.
- There will only be written public comment, no public hearings.

TOPIC: EARLY INTERVENTION COMPETENCIES WORK GROUP –

CORE COMPETENCIES

ACTION:

- This subgroup has met 4 times since last May.
- They have come to agreement on the core competencies.
- There has been no decision on how these competencies will be measured.
- The work group has been working on personnel requirements for certain EI roles. There has been agreement on who can act in the role of an early childhood special educator in the field of Early Intervention. Presently the problem is that the licensing standards under the Education Practices and Standards board are not flexible enough for the needs in Early Intervention for ECSE. The state office is willing to issue a policy that outlines the ECSE requirements for practice in Early Intervention. This policy will need to be sent out for public written comment.
- This group is meeting next Thursday and will continue to work on staff qualifications across all disciplines, understand licensing requirements, clarifying consultation in early intervention, and start discussing methods for measurements.

TOPIC: NATURAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES POLICY WORK

ACTION:

- This group met at the end of June.
- Came up with an overwhelming list on things that we can do to deliver the message on what early intervention is.
- KAT Communications issued a report.
- NECTAC sent 2 staff from North Carolina and worked on the work plan based on the activities generated from meetings. Plan to pull the workgroup back together.
- Will be looking at an RFP to have someone develop a media/marketing package for referral sources, families, and staff working in early intervention.

TOPIC: BUDGET REPORT

ACTION:

- FFY 2005 grant year ended 9/30/07.
- Did not spend about \$20,000 out of the \$2.1 million.
- Have asked that it be opened for additional liquidation.
- FFY 2006 grant year will end on 9/30/08.
- We should be closer in expending down compared to last year.
- Have about \$800,000 to liquidate.

TOPIC: FAMILY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE, AUG 15-17, EDGELEY, ND

ACTION:

- Missi Baranko reported that there were 30 individuals participating this year.
- Funding came through the E.C. Conference Assistance grant, HealthyND, Early Childhood Alliance, and Parent Involvement Subcommittee.

- Framework is:
 - State leadership
 - Increase awareness and understanding of impact of health issues
 - Increase families' ability to navigate complex systems
 - Provide information to families
 - Providing connections which are so important for families.
- The next leadership institute is scheduled for May 1-3, 2009.

TOPIC: SUMMARY REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR

ACTION:

- A recommendation came out of some of the work in the Natural Learning Opportunities Workgroup to create more visibility of the Early Intervention program in the governor's office, among legislators, and among policymakers.
- There was a discussion what we can do to increase the visibility of early intervention amongst lawmakers and the Governor such as need for adequate funding, maintain and recruit staff, etc.
- We can give the Governor the Annual Performance Report or give him the APR and prepare are own annual summary for the Governor.
- There is presently an infant development study in front of the Human Services Legislative Interim Committee.
- There is an issue with the current fee structure regarding equity in salaries through available funding and retrospective rate setting process, which was designed for daily rates of residential and support providers.
- Presently being considered is a modified fee schedule which would have an evaluation rate, IFSP rate, consultation rate, and a home visit rate.
- There is a consensus that putting together a summary would be beneficial.
- Ideas: Include family stories, possibly identify a specific topic that we are struggling with and submit information to the Governor and ask for input/advice from his office, create an awareness of ICC activities.
- Roxane will send an email to members for input on priorities and have the Executive Committee make a decision and then report to the full ICC.
- May need to go to the Department of Human Services and get input on the priorities developed.
- There was discussion about making sure that the regions are notified of the activities of the ICC, subcommittees, and work groups. The ND EI website will continue to be updated and regional contacts notified of the changes.

TOPIC: NEXT MEETING DATES

ACTION:

- Wed, Dec 3, IDEA
- Thurs, Dec 4, 9:00am to 12:00 IDEA/ICC
- Thurs, Dec 4, 1:00pm to 5:00pm ICC